COLLECTORS CORNER NO. 91 JULY 30, 1976
GEORGE MISHLER

SPEAKING OF STAMPS: BICENTENNIAL ENVELOPES

ANNCR: AND NOW, COLLECTOR'S CORNER, THE VOICE OF AMERICA SERIES OF PROGRAMS FOR LISTENERS WHO COLLECT THINGS, WHETHER THEY BE STAMPS OR COINS, SNUFF BOTTLES OR OLD AUTOS, OR EVEN BALLS OF STRING. TODAY, WE'RE SPEAKING OF STAMPS. OUR REPORT WAS PREPARED BY GEORGE MISHLER.

VOICE: THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HAS ANNOUNCED THE RELEASE OF ANOTHER IN THE SERIES OF BICENTENNIAL ERA ENVELOPES.

THE ENVELOPE CONTINUES THE SERIES WHICH BEGAN LAST YEAR WITH THE SEAFARING TRADITION AND WAS FOLLOWED THIS YEAR WITH ENVELOPES HONORING THE AMERICAN FARMER, THE AMERICAN HOMEMAKER AND -- LAST MONTH -- THE AMERICAN DOCTOR.

THE NEW ENVELOPE IS DEDICATED TO THE AMERICAN CRAFTSMAN. IN KEEPING WITH THE DESIGN OF ALL THE OTHERS IT FEATURES A SILHOUETTE DEPICTING A SHAKER ROCKING CHAIR THAT TYPIFIES THE EXCELLENCE OF SHAKER CRAFTSMANSHIP IN THE MAKING OF FURNITURE.

THE SHAKERS ARE MEMBERS OF A FUNDAMENTALIST RELIGIOUS GROUP WHO ARE FOR THE MOST PART SELF-SUFFICIENT. THE SECT WAS FOUNDED IN ENGLAND IN 1747 UNDER THE NAME "UNITED SOCIETY FOR BELIEVERS IN CHRIST'S SECOND APPEARANCE." THE NAME "SHAKERS" WAS APPLIED TO THEM BECAUSE OF TREMBLING THAT OCCURRED DURING RELIGIOUS SERVICES AS A RESULT OF EMOTION.

VOICE: (CONT) A SMALL BAND EMIGRATED TO NEW YORK IN 1774 AND BY 1826 COMMUNITIES COULD BE FOUND AS FAR WEST AS INDIANA. A DEVOUT BELIEF IN CELIBACY MADE THE MOVEMENT SHORT-LIVED ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A FEW SURVIVING SHAKERS IN HANCOCK, MASSACHUSETTS, WHERE THE ENVELOPE WILL BE ISSUED (WAS ISSUED) ON AUGUST 6.

THE SHAKER ROCKER WILL APPEAR ON THE ENVELOPE IN BROWN. UNDERNEATH THE ROCKER IN ONE LINE OF TYPE APPEARS "BICENTENNIAL ERA - THE AMERICAN CRAFTSMAN." THREE OF THE TOOLS USED BY COLONIAL CRAFTSMEN AROUND 1850, MAKE UP THE INDICIA. THE TOOLS WILL BE WHITE AGAINST A RED BACKGROUND.

ALL THE ENVELOPES IN THE SERIES ARE PRODUCED ON BROWN LAID-STOCK. THEY WERE DESIGNED BY ARTHUR CONGDON OF NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT, WHO ALSO DESIGNED THE 1972 PARENT-TEACHERS ASSOCIATION STAMP.

FIRST DAY CANCELLATION REQUESTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO CRAFTSMAN ENVELOPE, POSTMASTER, HANCOCK, MASSACHUSETTS U.S.A. 01237. THE COST IS 15 CENTS PER ENVELOPE. COLLECTORS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE OR RETURN ADDRESS LABELS SO THAT THE NEW ENVELOPES MAY BE RETURNED UNDER COVER.

ANNCR: YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO COLLECTOR'S CORNER, THE WEEKLY VOICE OF AMERICA PROGRAM FOR LISTENERS WHO COLLECT THINGS.. FROM STAMPS AND COINS ... TO BALLS OF STRING. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT FOR ANOTHER COLLECTOR'S CORNER.

WJL/PY